

Chuska

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 23, 1916.

Mr. Charles S. Sloane,
Secretary, U.S. Geographic Board,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Sloane:

In reply to your letter of February 7:

I have examined both the report by Mr. Vernon Bailey and the work by the Franciscan Fathers, and find that Prof. Gregory's report can be made to conform with this earlier usage by simply substituting the name Chuska Mountains for Boundary Mountains which I believe is in full accord with the decision of your board.

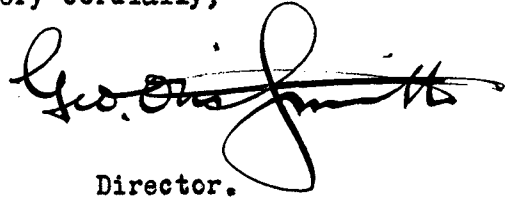
Mr. Bailey's description and Prof. Gregory's further agree in describing the Chuska Mountains as bounded by abrupt rim-rock margins, which on the western edge Prof. Gregory describes as presenting a nearly vertical escarpment.

West of the Chuska Mountains and separated from this range not only by the "abrupt rim-rock margin" (Bailey) but also by the well defined Black Creek Valley, more than 50 miles in length, lies the plateau described by Prof. Gregory as an elongated dome, 40 miles or more in width and 100 miles in length. This distinct physiographic unit has been carefully surveyed by Prof. Gregory and I agree with him as to the necessity of both differentiating it and giving it a distinctive name. In view of the Board's objection to the use of "the name of a living person for a

U

prominent geographic feature," a policy with which I am in general agreement, I have authorized the use of the name Defiance Plateau and have ordered the substitution of this for Hubbel Plateau in the manuscript as prepared by Prof. Gregory. The report will go forward for publication with this change.

Yours very cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Geo. Engelmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Director.